

HYDROMANTES BRUNUS
H. PLATYCEPHALUS
H. SHASTAE

AMPHIBIA: CAUDATA: PLETHODONTIDAE

GORMAN, JOE. 1964. *Hydromantes brunus*, *H. platycephalus*, and *H. shastae*, p. 11. In W. J. Riener (ed.), Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles. American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, Kensington, Maryland.

***Hydromantes brunus* Gorman**
Limestone salamander

Hydromantes brunus Gorman, 1954:153. Type-locality, "base of low cliffs beside State Route 140, 0.7 miles NNE Briceburg (confluence of Bear Creek and Merced River), Mariposa County, California," 390 m altitude. Holotype, Univ. California Mus. Vertebr. Zool. 59530, collected by (Mrs.) Gerry Gorman, 24 February 1952.

• **CONTENT.** This highly restricted species is monotypic.

• **DEFINITION and DIAGNOSIS.** This species has a maximum snout-vent length of 64 mm. The tail is especially long; the limbs are of medium length. Melanophores are diffused; the adults are dusty to light brown, without melanophore-guanophore patterning. Very young individuals are vivid yellow green; they then become pale dull yellow. Silvery spots are few or lacking on the throat.

• **DESCRIPTIONS and ILLUSTRATIONS.** The only published account is that of Gorman (1954), which includes a figure of the adult and young.

• **DISTRIBUTION.** Three populations are known; all occur within an area of 1½ miles at 375-800 m altitude.

• **FOSSIL RECORD.** None.

• **PERTINENT LITERATURE.** Gorman (1954 and MS).

• **ETYMOLOGY.** The name *brunus* is from Latin, meaning brown.

***Hydromantes platycephalus* (Camp)**
Mt. Lyell salamander

Spelerpes platycephalus Camp, 1916:11. Type-locality, "head of Lyell Cañon, 10,800 feet altitude [3300 m], Yosemite National Park, [Tuolumne County] California." Holotype, adult female, Univ. California Mus. Vertebr. Zool. 5693, collected by Charles L. Camp, 18 July 1915.

Hydromantes platycephalus: Dunn, 1923:39. Transfer of *S. platycephalus* to *Hydromantes*.

• **CONTENT.** Populations which vary infraspecifically occur in this species, but no subspecies are recognized and none has been proposed.

• **DEFINITION.** This *Hydromantes* is flattened. Its legs and tail are relatively short; the dorsal melanin is dark but is suffused with greenish-yellow chromophores; there are silvery spots laterally placed on the belly. Maximum snout-vent length is 68 mm.

• **DESCRIPTIONS and ILLUSTRATIONS.** Camp (1916), Gorman & Camp (1953), and Stebbins (1951, 1954) provide descriptions and figures.

• **DISTRIBUTION.** Several populations are recorded from the western slopes of the central and southern Sierra Nevada of California, from about 1200 to 3600 m in altitude. Populations are localized in rocky areas from Sonora Pass, Tuolumne County, south to Twin Lakes (Silliman Gap), Tulare County.

• **FOSSIL RECORD.** None.

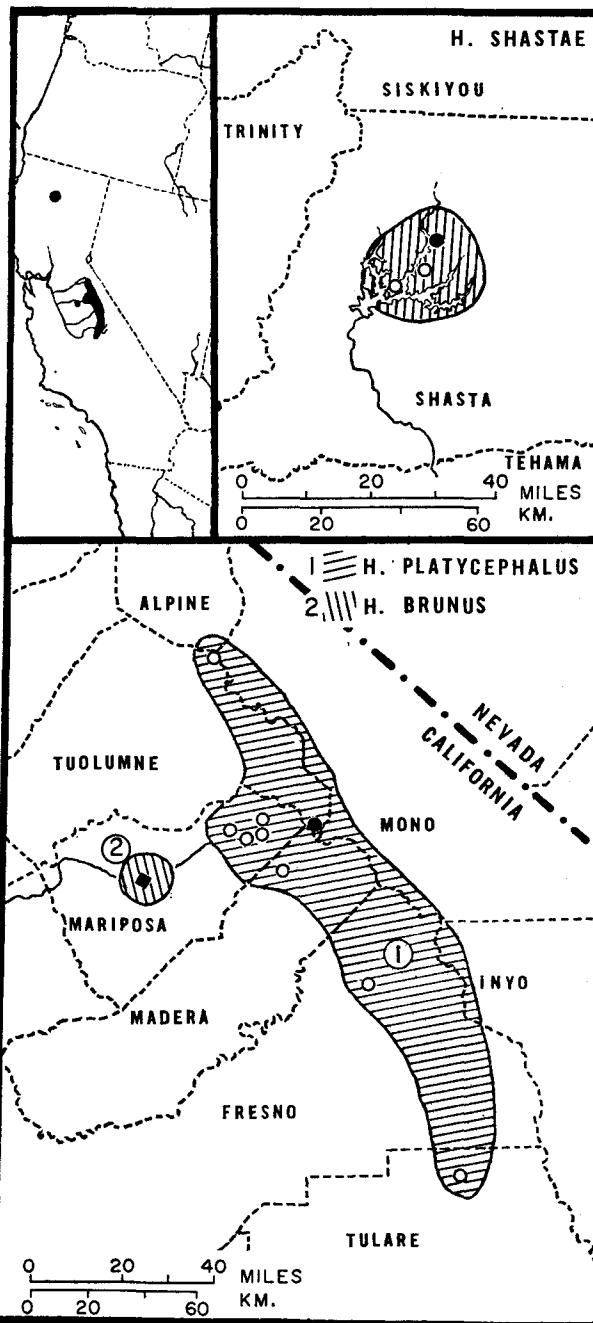
• **PERTINENT LITERATURE.** The only comprehensive treatment of this species, which includes both natural history and an analysis of gular musculature, is that of Adams (1942). Also see Gorman (MS).

• **REMARKS.** The known populations vary in color showing a close match to their sites of occurrence, a circumstance needing further study.

• **ETYMOLOGY.** The name *platycephalus* is from Greek and means "flatheaded."

***Hydromantes shastae* Gorman & Camp**
Shasta salamander

Hydromantes shastae Gorman & Camp, 1953:39. Type-locality, "entrance to limestone caves at the edge of Flat Creek Road in the narrows of Low Pass Creek (0.7 mi. east of Squaw Creek Road, 18.4 mi. north and 15.3 mi. east of Redding), Shasta County, California," 460 m altitude. Holotype, Univ. California Mus. Vertebr. Zool. 52314, adult female, collected by Joe Gorman, 12 June 1950.



MAP. Solid symbols mark type-localities; open symbols show other localities, selected ones in the case of *H. platycephalus*. The small-scale map is after Goode Base Map 109, © University of Chicago 1961.

- **CONTENT.** A restricted monotypic form.
- **DEFINITION.** This medium-sized *Hydromantes* (maximum snout-vent length 63.6 mm) has long legs and a tail of medium length. Melanophores are dusty brown, chromophores are rose orange. The general tone dorsally is reddish brown with yellow ochre on the tail. The belly has few to many spots centrally located.
- **DESCRIPTIONS and ILLUSTRATIONS.** Gorman & Camp (1953), Stebbins (1954), and Gorman (1956) constitute the literature on this species. Gorman (1956) describes the eggs and larvae; the other papers include descriptions and illustrations of adults.
- **DISTRIBUTION.** Only three populations are known at present: at Low Pass Creek, Brock Mountain, and McCloud River (near the Shasta Reservoir), all in Shasta County, California, about 400-800 m altitude.
- **FOSSIL RECORD.** None.
- **PERTINENT LITERATURE.** See DESCRIPTIONS. Also see Gorman (MS).
- **ETYMOLOGY.** The name *shastae* is taken from the name of the volcanic mountain that dominates the region of occurrence. "Shasta" is derived from the name of an American Indian, *Sustika*, who lived in that area about 1840.

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- J. GORMAN, LA VERNE COLLEGE, LA VERNE, CALIFORNIA.
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